



Brownfields Showcase Communities

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. This multi-agency partnership has pledged support to 16 "Brownfields Showcase Communities"—models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields. The designated Brownfields Showcase Communities are distributed across the country and vary by size, resources, and community type. A wide range of support will be leveraged, depending on the particular needs of each Showcase Community.

BACKGROUND

The Brownfields Initiative was launched to empower States, local governments, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together to assess, clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Communities have asked for more coordination among all levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

The Federal agencies participating in the Brownfields National Partnership will offer special technical, financial, and other assistance to selected communities. Brownfields Showcase Communities will be models demonstrating the benefits of focused, coordinated attention on brownfields. The project is the centerpiece of the Federal government's Brownfields Initiative and provides a pattern for future cooperative efforts in addressing other environmental and economic issues.

GOALS

The goals of the Brownfields Showcase Communities project are to:

- Promote environmental protection and restoration, economic redevelopment, job creation, community revitalization, and public health protection through

the assessment, cleanup, and sustainable reuse of brownfields;

- Link Federal, State, local, and non-governmental action supporting community efforts to restore and reuse brownfields; and
- Develop national models demonstrating the positive results of public and private collaboration in addressing brownfields challenges.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Communities are expected to benefit from designation as a Brownfields Showcase Community in a variety of ways. The Showcase Communities are examples of successful brownfields assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment, providing national visibility for a community's brownfields efforts. Showcase Communities have been recognized for their innovative and successful approaches to addressing brownfields and are expected to be role-models for other communities facing similar situations and challenges. A Federal employee will be assigned to each Showcase Community to assist with coordination of technical and financial support and to address the myriad of environmental issues. Participating agencies and programs will vary for each Showcase Community depending upon the

particular community's needs and plans, e.g., a large city might be served by different programs and resources than a small community. Financial assistance, technical support, and grants/cooperative agreements from participating agency programs are subject to the requirements of those programs.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

Federal agencies participating in the Brownfields Showcase Communities project include:

- Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Department of Commerce (DOC)
 - Economic Development Administration (EDA)
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Department of Education (ED)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
 - Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)
 - National Park Service (NPS)

- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of the Treasury (Treasury)
 - Office of Controller of Currency (OCC)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
- Federal Housing Finance Board (FHFB)
- General Services Administration (GSA)
- Small Business Administration (SBA)

THE SHOWCASE COMMUNITIES

Baltimore, MD is a national leader in connecting its Empowerment Zone (EZ) activities with brownfields redevelopment.

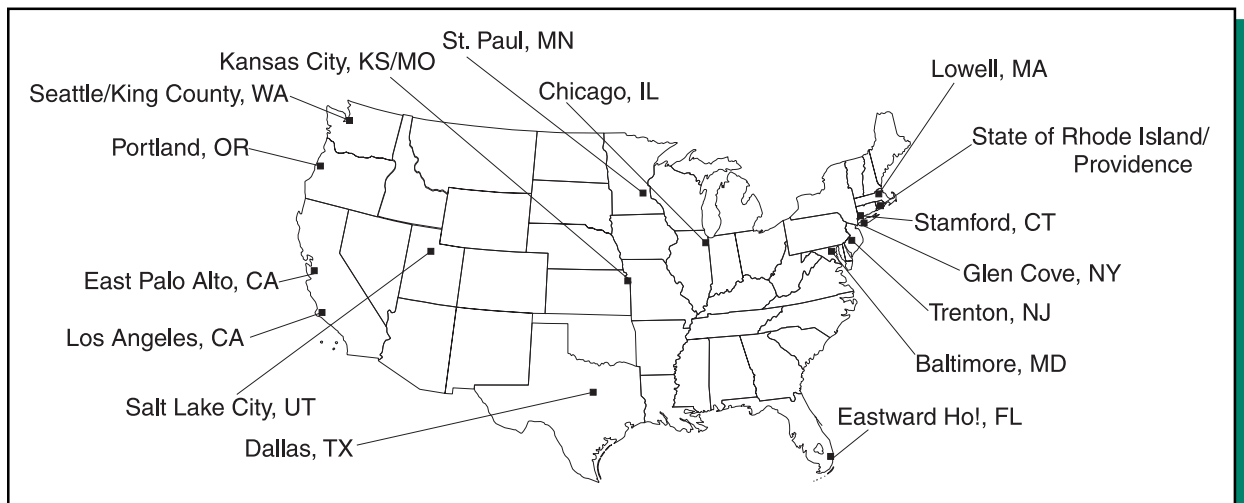
Chicago, IL has shown the country how a city can take the lead in addressing brownfields issues through its Brownfields Forum.

Dallas, TX has already leveraged a great deal of Federal resources through its EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot.

East Palo Alto, CA has shown how a small community can achieve success through partnerships and leveraging resources.

Eastward Ho! (Southeast FL) is using a regional model along a transportation corridor to keep development out of the Everglades, with both environmental and economic benefits.

The Brownfields Showcase Communities



Glen Cove, NY seeks to clean up and redevelop brownfields within Glen Cove's waterfront district, in conjunction with the city, government at all levels, the private sector, and the local community.

Kansas City, KS & MO show how two cities and states can join together to solve brownfields problems, working in partnership with each other, the Economic Development Administration, National Park Service, and DOE.

Los Angeles, CA has demonstrated how a sprawling community can concentrate on a transportation corridor to revitalize brownfields.

Lowell, MA is a classic northeastern manufacturing city. As a Showcase Community, Lowell will reposition itself to further address brownfields redevelopment.

Portland, OR's transportation department is leading the way in addressing brownfields assessment and sustainable, controlled redevelopment.

The State of Rhode Island/Providence is addressing a watershed area, the Woonasquatucket River, with a focus on greenway development.

St. Paul, MN is leading its brownfields redevelopment through the Port Authority. The Port Authority is being re-cast to be the City's department responsible for economic revitalization and redevelopment.

Salt Lake City, UT is working to rejuvenate a blighted industrial district into an area with open space, job creation, crime prevention, and cultural anchors.

Seattle/King County, WA is an example of how a major city and rural county can work together in a regional approach toward brownfields redevelopment.

Stamford, CT is a small, northeastern industrial city in a Connecticut Revitalization Zone, which plans to build a sports arena in its targeted brownfields area.

Trenton, NJ, through its partnership with a neighborhood community development corporation (CDC), has been very successful in involving the community with brownfields redevelopment.

Contacts:

For more information regarding Brownfields Showcase Communities, please contact:

EPA-Outreach and Special Projects Staff
(202) 260-4039

Or, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/showcase.htm>